

and Julian's success with Seniors United comes from a simple idea—empowerment. They believe that an informed democracy is a powerful democracy. They never hesitate to hold their elected officials feet to the fire and demonstrate on a daily basis that an active and involved citizenry is definitely not a function of age. Perhaps their greatest assets are those attributes which have helped them stay married for 50 years: compassion, patience, love, and loyalty. On January 17, 1998, Lillian and Julian Wallace will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join with me today to recognize these two Nevadans for their dedication and devotion not only to their marriage but also to making this country better for all citizens.●

SUPPORT OF FAST-TRACK REAUTHORIZATION

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to voice my support for the pending fast-track reauthorization legislation. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I would like to begin by stressing the importance of fast track to U.S. agriculture. In 1996, agricultural exports reached a record \$60 billion, but import barriers, export subsidies, and state trading enterprises continue to distort world commodity markets. These distortions put America's farmers and agribusiness operators at a disadvantage. We must reduce these trade barriers and allow our industry to freely supply the world's markets.

I ask that a letter in support of fast track from all living Secretaries of Agriculture, dating from President Kennedy's administration, be printed in the RECORD.

Last year, my State of Indiana exported goods totaling \$12.1 billion and these exports directly supported 66,000 Hoosier jobs. Current estimates indicate Indiana will achieve a record \$13 billion in exports this year. Indiana's exports grew by an extraordinary 75 percent between 1992 and 1996. Since 1993, exports by Indianapolis firms increased 53 percent, South Bend's exports are up by 175 percent and Muncie's export growth leapt 114 percent. Terre Haute firms saw their exports rise 277 percent, the second highest rate of increase in the Nation. Indiana was the eighth largest agricultural exporter in 1996 with over \$2 billion in exports. Because export related jobs pay on average more than nonexport related jobs, it is easy to conclude that exporting is a vital component to Indiana's robust economy.

The United States must continue to be the leader in knocking down tariff and nontariff trade barriers. This bill is critical to advancing trade liberalization and opening markets for all sectors. Approving fast track is the first step in achieving these goals.

Mr. President, I ask that a letter from President Clinton regarding a

proposed congressional oversight group be inserted in the RECORD. I agree with the President that more can be done regarding strengthening the current congressional advisory group. Specifically, for each new trade negotiation the administration would consult with and update a specific congressional oversight group for that particular round of negotiations. The group would provide advice to the U.S. Trade Representative and be charged with general oversight. Second, the U.S. Trade Representative would work with congressional leaders, within 60 days of enactment, to develop guidelines for interaction between Congress and the administration on trade negotiations. The guidelines would address such issues as the timing of written and oral briefings regarding U.S. objectives, the status of the negotiations, the role of the group during actual negotiations, and access to information obtained during negotiations. The United States must be well prepared for the next round of World Trade Organization talks on agriculture in 1999 and the establishment of a congressional oversight group would be a positive beginning for this process.

Since 1974, Congress has granted every President fast-track negotiating authority. America's economic future increasingly lies with our ability to sell our goods and services around the globe. Without fast track, the United States will be sidelined in future trade negotiations. Since the creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] in 1947, the United States has been the leader in knocking down trade barriers and opening up markets. As we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the GATT, the United States can either be engaged and play an active role in further trade liberalization or allow our competitors to stake claim to a larger portion of world markets.

The letters follow:

NOVEMBER 3, 1997.

Hon. RICHARD LUGAR,

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC

Hon. TOM HARKIN,

Ranking member, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC

Hon. BOB SMITH,

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC

Hon. CHARLES STENHOLM,

Ranking member, Committee on Agriculture, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR GENTLEMEN: The U.S. food and agricultural system is one of the nation's greatest success stories. American agriculture competitively produces, handles, processes, services, trades and transports food and fiber that the world wants to buy. Agricultural trade has contributed significantly to U.S. farm income, created jobs and strengthened American economic and political interests. For those reasons, agricultural trade has been a top priority for every administration in recent memory.

Having served as the Secretaries of Agriculture to Presidents of both political par-

ties, we have witnessed how U.S. agriculture has benefited from trade liberalization made possible by previous fast-track authorities. With the implementation of NAFTA and GATT, U.S. agricultural exports surged another \$20 billion in value, hitting an all-time high of \$60.3 billion in 1996. U.S. agriculture also has enjoyed a consistent trade surplus, which last year climbed to \$27 billion.

Our food and agricultural system now is poised to make additional export gains from upcoming trade negotiations. Many developing countries are experiencing economic growth which means rising incomes for their citizens. Food demand is expanding as people upgrade their diets. These consumers will need to rely to a greater degree than ever on world markets, but there is no guarantee that agricultural products grown in the United States may reach them. To assure that, we need to make additional progress lowering trade barriers, eliminating unfair trading practices and constraining domestic subsidies that distort trade.

Fast track is the key to unlocking those opportunities. It is the avenue for our negotiators to level the playing field for U.S. farmers and processors to compete. The authorities it conveys can and should be used to help resolve outstanding trade disputes and strengthen the rules of international commerce. Moreover, it should be used as it was in the past—to exercise U.S. leadership in trade.

American agriculture needs to be at the table for the 199 agriculture talks in the World Trade Organization to continue the progress made in the Uruguay Round. In addition, we need to be active in upcoming bilateral negotiations with countries like Chile and for the regional Free Trade Agreement of the Americas and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation talks.

Very simply, fast track is critical to American agriculture being able to compete and prosper in the years ahead. That is why more than 60 agricultural organizations have committed themselves to work for fast track, and why we as former Secretaries of Agriculture support them in their effort.

We urge you to do what you can to assure prompt passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Orville Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, Kennedy and Johnson Administrations; Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Agriculture, Nixon and Ford Administrations; John R. Block, Secretary of Agriculture, Reagan Administration; Clayton Yeutter, Secretary of Agriculture, Bush Administration; Clifford Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture, Nixon Administration; Bob Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture, Carter Administration; Richard E. Lyng, Secretary of Agriculture, Reagan Administration; Mike Espy, Clinton Administration.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, November 5, 1997

Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR,

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas with me about advancing fast track legislation. Your perspectives were, as always, welcome and useful.

As you know, I am committed to ensuring close Congressional involvement both in the formulation and implementation of our trade agreements. Appropriately, the Senate and House fast track bills both provide for extensive Congressional participation.

I was intrigued by the idea of establishing an oversight mechanism for trade negotiations similar to the NATO Observers Group.

I have since looked into this idea and want to draw your attention to a structure that has been in place for a while that is quite similar to the NATO group. In 1974, Congress established the Congressional Advisers for Trade Policy and Negotiations, a trade policy and negotiations oversight body that remains in place today. This is a bipartisan group of official Congressional advisers, designated by the Leadership, that is accredited to our trade delegations and kept informed on matters affecting trade policy, including ongoing negotiations. I am including with this letter a summary of how the procedure works.

I am fully committed to ensuring that the Congressional trade advisor system works effectively to ensure that Congress is both fully informed and consulted as we develop and implement U.S. trade policy. I am convinced that the Administration benefits significantly when Congress plays an active and continuing role in formulating our trade policies and objectives. For that reason, the Administration bill and both the Senate and House bills, which I support, include specific language designed to enhance the effectiveness of the Congressional trade adviser system.

While the bills pending in the House and Senate seek to reinvigorate the Congressional Advisers mechanism, I believe that more can be done. Therefore, I would propose the inclusion of an additional title in the fast track bill entitled "Congressional Oversight Groups" that would:

a. Establish for each trade negotiation that the Administration notifies to the Congress under fast track, a specific "Congressional Oversight Group" for that negotiation. The group would be selected by the leadership from among the existing congressional trade advisers, and would be tasked with oversight of, and providing advice to the Trade Representative regarding, the negotiation.

b. Instruct the Trade Representative to work with the Senate and House leadership to develop, within 60 days of enactment, guidelines for interaction between the Administration and Congressional Oversight Groups. The guidelines would be structured to ensure a useful and timely flow of information between the Administration and the Congressional Oversight Group, including at an early stage between the Oversight Group and the Trade Representative to discuss the Administration's objectives and the Group's views.

I hope that you will give serious consideration to this proposal. I would welcome any thoughts that you and other Members may have.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.●

CHRISTINA A. SNYDER, JUDICIAL NOMINEE FOR THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the U.S. Senate showed its overwhelming support today for Christina Snyder, one of the most qualified legal minds to fill a seat on the Federal bench of the Central District of California. My unwavering confidence in Ms. Snyder arises from respect for her background, education and career. I am very pleased she has been confirmed.

Ms. Snyder is a native of the Los Angeles area, having grown up in the Montebello community in East Los Angeles. She studied in the public elemen-

tary schools of Montebello and Orange County, and was valedictorian of her high school class. She later studied at the University of California at Los Angeles, before transferring to Pomona College where she earned her undergraduate degree. She earned her law degree at Stanford University.

Mr. President, I am sure you are aware Ms. Snyder's legal background is highly respected throughout the State of California. Ms. Snyder has distinguished herself in the legal community of Los Angeles through more than 20 years of law practice. Ms. Snyder began her career working at the Los Angeles law firm of Wyman, Bautzer, Kuchel and Silbert, where she eventually was made a partner. She later went on to become a law partner at two other Los Angeles law firms. Her nomination and election to the highly regarded American Law Institute in 1993 is further evidence of the respect she commands within the legal profession.

Moreover, Ms. Snyder has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service as one of the founding members of Public Counsel, a public interest law firm of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations. She also served as the California State Bar designee on the Board of Directors of the Western Center for Law and Poverty.

Again, I am pleased to speak in favor of Ms. Snyder and feel she is a valuable addition to the Federal bench.

FUNDS FOR ROAD EXPANSION TO TRANSPORT HAZARDOUS WASTE

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask that the text of a concurrent resolution passed by the Texas Legislature, be printed in the RECORD.

The text of the concurrent resolution follows:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 202

Whereas, Compliance with international disarmament treaties to curtail the proliferation of nuclear arms and defuse weapons of mass destruction has created new challenges for the United States related to the dismantling and cleanup of nuclear missiles; and

Whereas, The development, production, and disassembling of nuclear weapons produce transuranic waste, a highly radioactive conglomeration of contaminated laboratory gloves, tools, dried sludge, and other substances from testing and production facilities; and

Whereas, To create a safe and environmentally responsible method for permanently disposing of transuranic waste, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has designed the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southern New Mexico that will set the standard for deep geologic disposal of defense-related radioactive waste; and

Whereas, The transuranic waste to be deposited at the WIPP facility will be shipped by truck from all across the country, traveling through many states, including Texas, which is a major thoroughfare for radio active materials coming from South Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, and Ohio; and

Whereas, While a majority of the proposed route through Texas is on Interstate 20, a segment runs along U.S. Highway 285; this

portion of the route, which begins in Pecos, Texas, and continues into New Mexico, is a treacherous and narrow two-lane road; and

Whereas, The State of New Mexico, in a prudent move to protect the public safety of its citizens, has dedicated part of the impact funds received from the DOE for housing the WIPP to widen its section of U.S. 285; this highway is a dangerous and inadequate road that has already been the scene of one accident involving an empty WIPP transport truck; and

Whereas, There are currently no federal funds allocated for the State of Texas to take the same necessary safety precautions by widening the section of U.S. 285 running through our State; the health and safety of United States citizens residing in the Lone Star State is no less important than that of our neighbors to the northwest; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 75th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to allocate funds for road expansion in Texas along the designated route for transporting hazardous waste to the WIPP project; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.●

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF LEBANON CELEBRATION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in commemoration of the Lebanese Independence Day Celebration hosted by the Consul General of Lebanon and Mrs. Hassan Muslimani. The nation of Lebanon achieved its independence in 1943. A democratic nation, it is a leader in its region. Lebanon was a founding member of the League of Arab States which has done much to further the goals and interests of the region. Globally, Lebanon has also played a great part in the United Nations, a founding member, and also in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The nation of Lebanon has faced many challenges, but continues to preserve regardless of foreign and regional obstacles.

Lebanese Americans play an important role in the United States as well. I am always proud of this community's efforts to foster relationships of goodwill. These efforts will go far in enhancing and promoting the Lebanese American community's image and understanding. Recently, the United States' travel ban to Lebanon was lifted, allowing the people of our nations to travel freely. I look forward to future strengthening in ties between the United States and Lebanon.

Again, I would like to wish the greatest of success to the Consul General on his reception, and that it may bring closer our two cultures. Likewise, I am honored to recognize his strong efforts to raise awareness of the Lebanon Independence Day, November 22.●